



New York State Testing Program

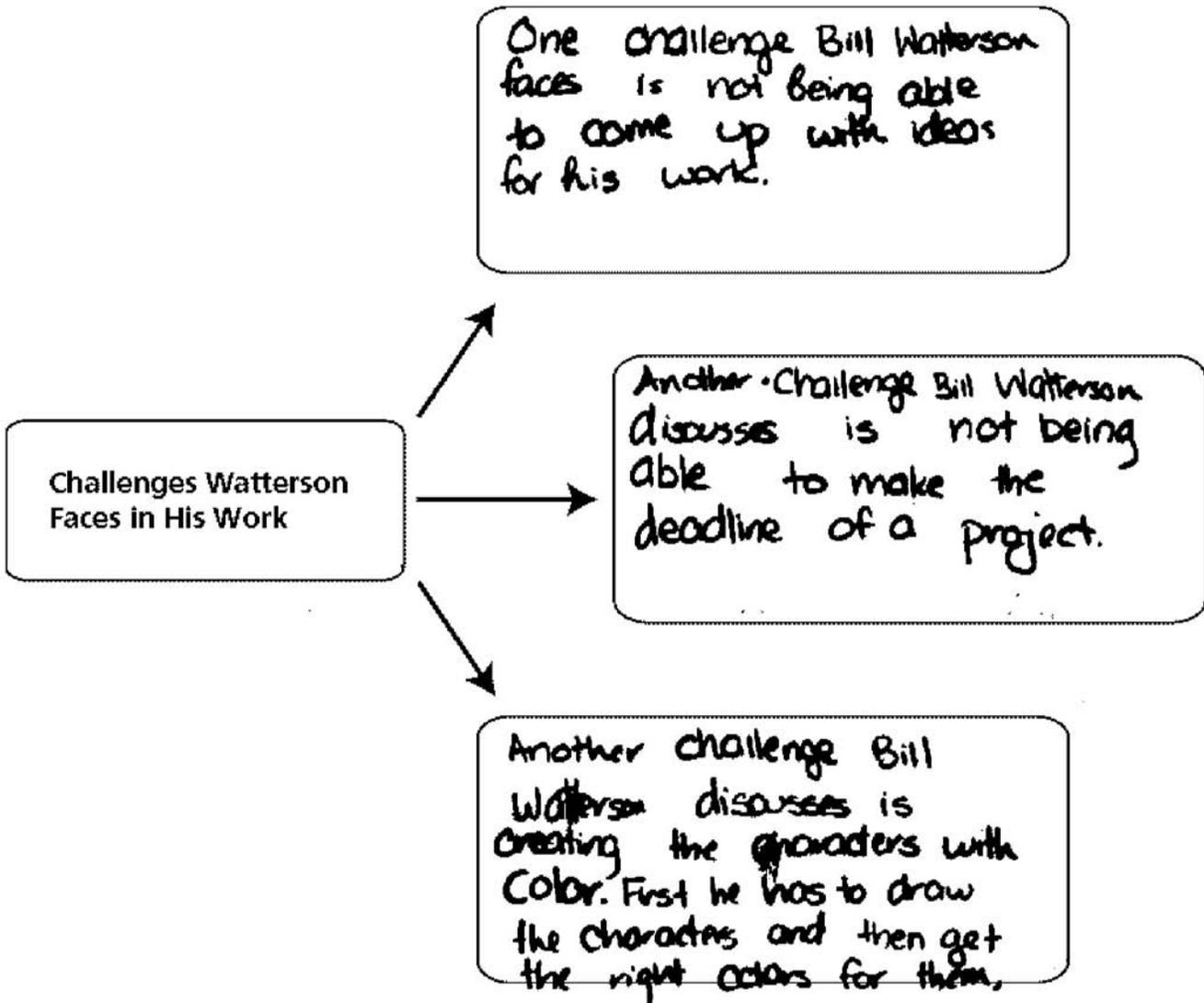
English Language Arts Test Reading/Writing

Grade **8**

2009 Practice Set

31

Bill Watterson discusses several challenges he faces in his work. In the diagram below, describe three of those challenges.



32

How does the message in this cartoon by Bill Watterson apply to his own method of working? Use details from both the cartoon and the passage to support your answer.



The message in this cartoon by Bill Watterson applies to his own method of working. Bill says in the story, "I never know what will trigger a workable idea,..." This means that a comic idea can come at any given time. He also likes to be ahead of schedule and always wants to be ready for a deadline. Bill's own life appears in his comics.

Continuation

33

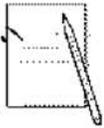
In what way does Roald Dahl's notebook, *Short Stories*, play an important role in his writing process? Use details from "Lucky Break" to support your answer.

Roald Dahl's notebook, *Short Stories*, plays an important role in his writing process. He writes all of his ideas down in his notebook. Roald says, "...every children's book I have ever written has started out as a three- or four-line note in this little, much-worn, red-covered volume." Roald believes that when a good plot comes, you have to write it down on anything you have. Roald Dahl believes that he would "be quite helpless" without his notebook.

Bill Watterson in "Drawing Calvin and Hobbes" and Roald Dahl in "Lucky Break" discuss their approaches to their work. Write an essay in which you describe the similarities and differences between the work habits of Watterson and Dahl. Explain how their work habits contribute to their success. Use details from both passages to support your answer.

In your essay, be sure to include

- a description of the similarities between the work habits of Watterson and Dahl
- a description of the differences between the work habits of Watterson and Dahl
- an explanation of how their work habits contribute to their success
- details from both passages to support your answer



Check your writing for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Bill Watterson in "Drawing Calvin and Hobbes" and Roald Dahl in "Lucky Break" are both writers. They both have similar and different approaches to their work.

Watterson and Dahl's work habits are similar. Both Watterson and Dahl like to write down their ideas. When Watterson gets an idea, he writes it down in an "ordinary school notebook." When Dahl gets an idea, he writes it down on anything he has with any type of writing utensil. He then transfers his ideas into a regular notebook.

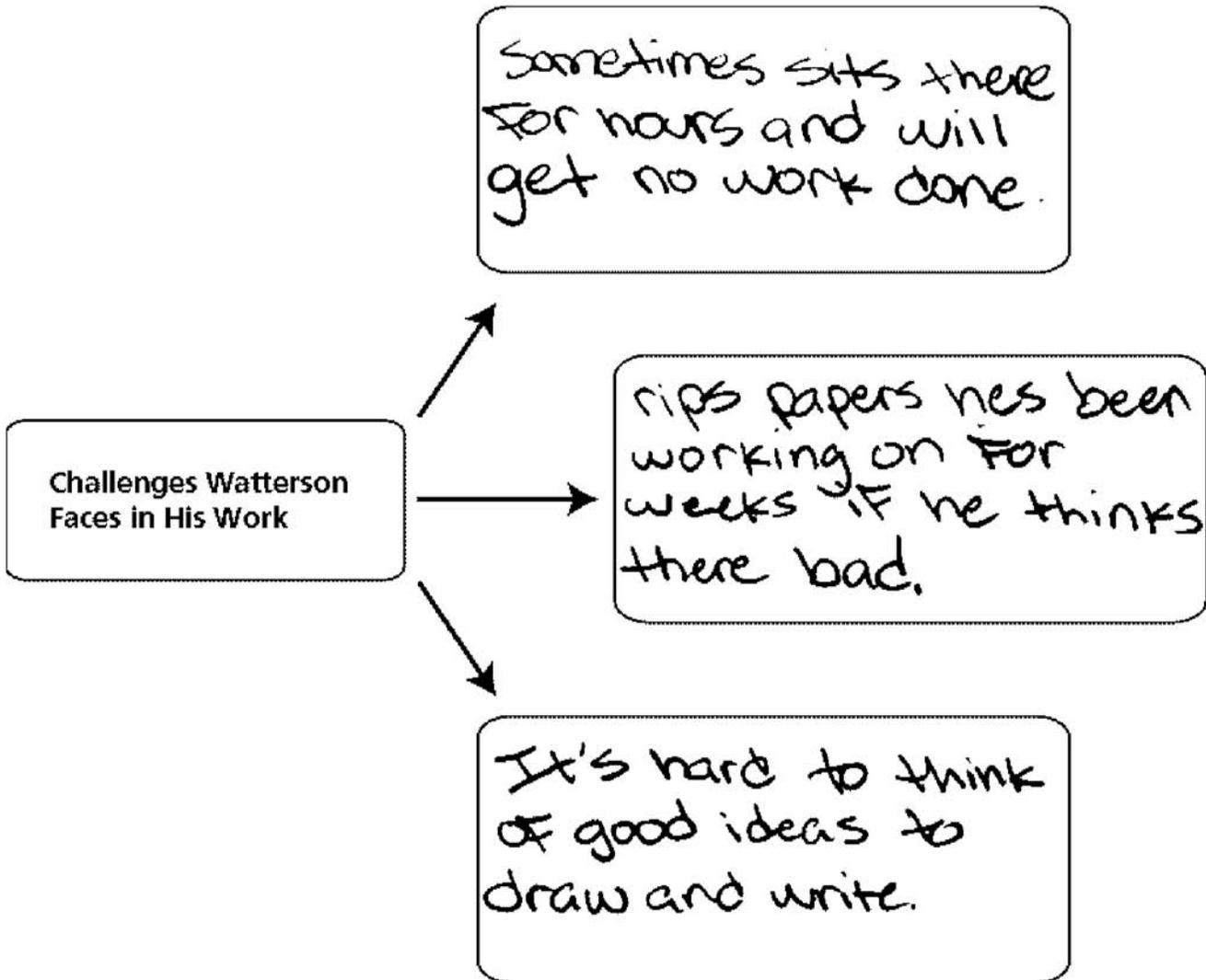
Watterson and Dahl's work habits are also different. Watterson likes to sit outside for hours at a time waiting for ideas. Watterson thinks that when he is outside with the bugs, birds, and rocks, something will inspire him. Dahl will just be doing ordinary things to get when he gets ideas. Dahl says, "You never know when a lovely idea is going to suddenly flit into your mind." When this happens to Dahl, he just writes down a single word or so not to forget it.

Both Watterson and Dahl's work habits contribute to their success. Watterson's work is printed in newspapers and in the Sunday strips. Dahl's work habits contributed to his success by letting him have many different ideas to work off of. Most of his ideas become children's books.

Both Watterson and Dahl have work habits that are similar and different. I learned that if you keep working at something, you will achieve greatness.

31

Bill Watterson discusses several challenges he faces in his work. In the diagram below, describe three of those challenges.



32

How does the message in this cartoon by Bill Watterson apply to his own method of working? Use details from both the cartoon and the passage to support your answer.



Sometimes he would work outside and get his creativity and having a dead line will make him work faster, more dedicated to finishing work and still draw it to perfection.

33

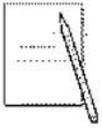
In what way does Roald Dahl's notebook, *Short Stories*, play an important role in his writing process? Use details from "Lucky Break" to support your answer.

If an idea ever comes to mind he would open his notebook immediately and write down his thoughts. If they were good ideas a couple lines of notes he wrote down from his book could sometimes turn into a really good story.

Bill Watterson in "Drawing Calvin and Hobbes" and Roald Dahl in "Lucky Break" discuss their approaches to their work. Write an essay in which you describe the similarities and differences between the work habits of Watterson and Dahl. Explain how their work habits contribute to their success. Use details from both passages to support your answer.

In your essay, be sure to include

- a description of the similarities between the work habits of Watterson and Dahl
- a description of the differences between the work habits of Watterson and Dahl
- an explanation of how their work habits contribute to their success
- details from both passages to support your answer



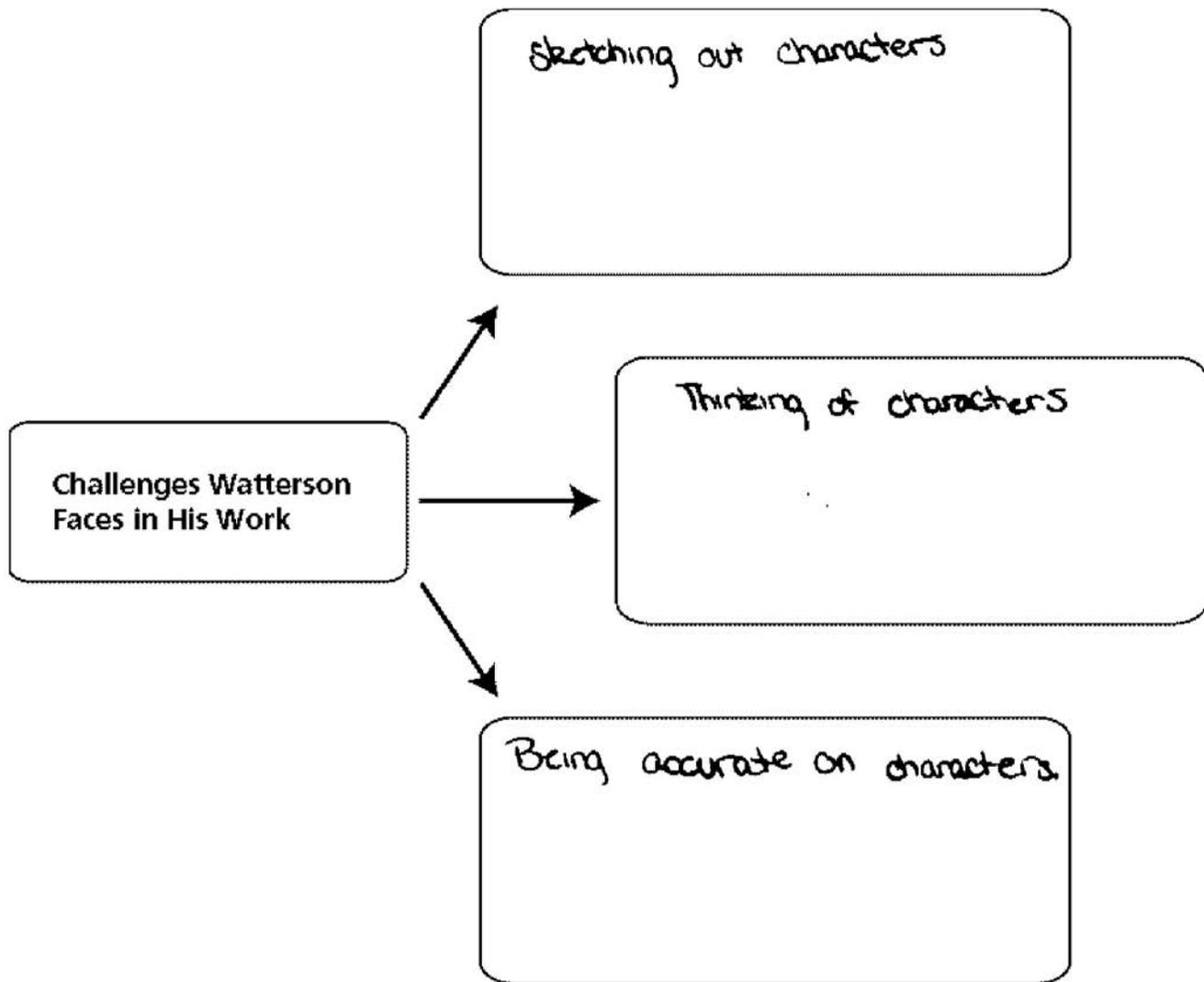
Check your writing for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Similar things the both of these writers did was whenever either of them had an idea or thought they would write it down or draw it. The difference of the two writers is that Dahl is more of a writer and Watterson is a writer and a cartoonist. In the end the both of these writers work hard and are very dedicated to reaching their success. They both could have many thoughts

and drawings that they put
down on to paper that just
go to waste but every once
in a while they would come
up with some very good stories
and cartoons.

31

Bill Watterson discusses several challenges he faces in his work. In the diagram below, describe three of those challenges.



32

How does the message in this cartoon by Bill Watterson apply to his own method of working? Use details from both the cartoon and the passage to support your answer.



When Bill Watterson writes he tries to think in nice place, and tries to always be on-time.

33

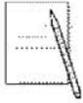
In what way does Roald Dahl's notebook, *Short Stories*, play an important role in his writing process? Use details from "Lucky Break" to support your answer.

This helps because he is saying as soon as you think of a good plot, don't waste any time and write it down

Bill Watterson in "Drawing Calvin and Hobbes" and Roald Dahl in "Lucky Break" discuss their approaches to their work. Write an essay in which you describe the similarities and differences between the work habits of Watterson and Dahl. Explain how their work habits contribute to their success. Use details from both passages to support your answer.

In your essay, be sure to include

- a description of the similarities between the work habits of Watterson and Dahl
- a description of the differences between the work habits of Watterson and Dahl
- an explanation of how their work habits contribute to their success
- details from both passages to support your answer

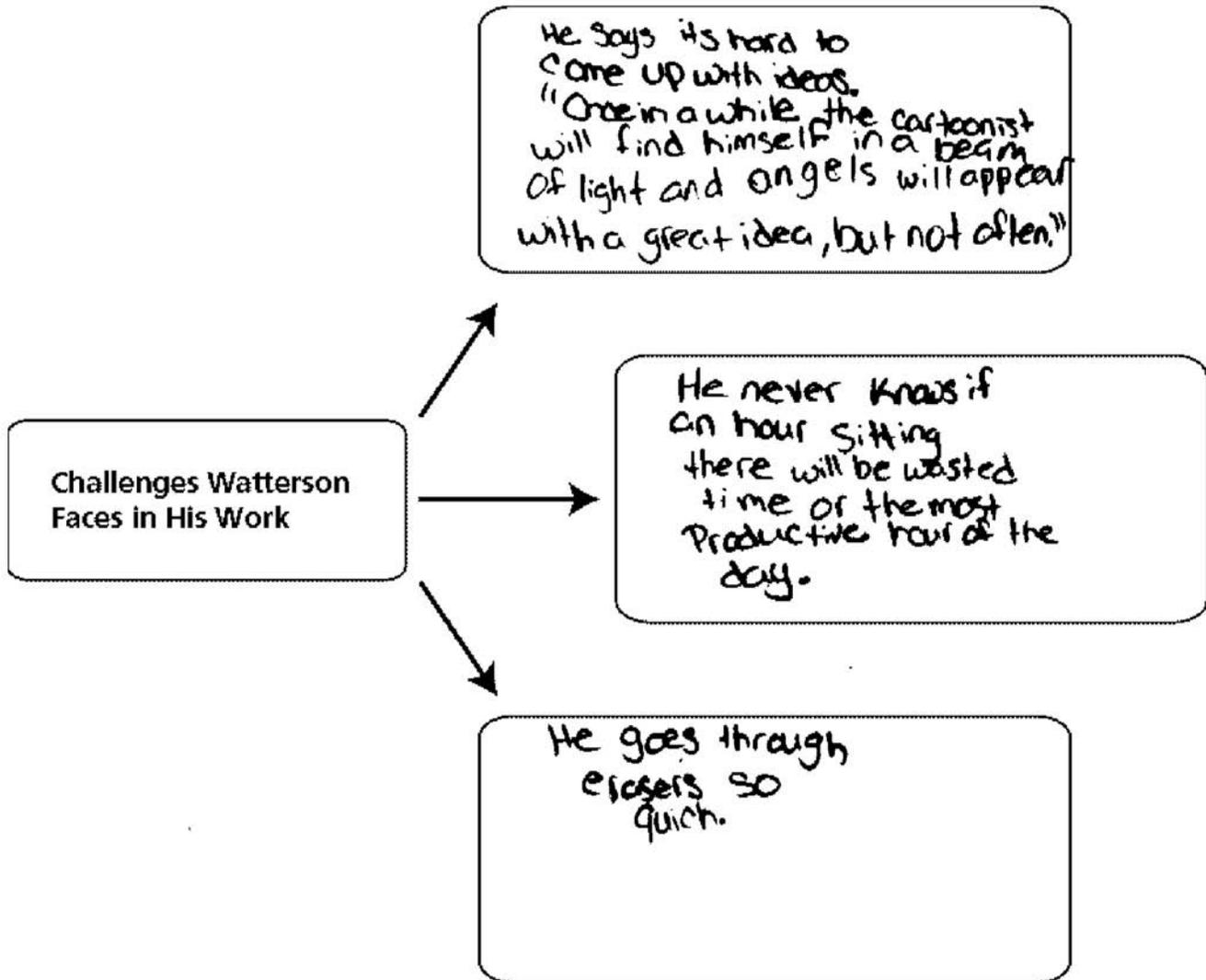


Check your writing for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Both stories are alike and different in many ways. Both stories had to do with cartoons. Except in the first one he was talking about how a cartoonist would plan his/her time, and the second story is about how you can change a small thought into an incredible cartoon, comic, and even a movie. In each story they all knew how to be successful on their working habits.

31

Bill Watterson discusses several challenges he faces in his work. In the diagram below, describe three of those challenges.



32

How does the message in this cartoon by Bill Watterson apply to his own method of working? Use details from both the cartoon and the passage to support your answer.



This cartoon applies to Bill Watterson's own working method, because, he says he usually sits outside and waits for an idea to hit him.

33

In what way does Roald Dahl's notebook, *Short Stories*, play an important role in his writing process? Use details from "Lucky Break" to support your answer.

Roald Dahl's notebook, *Short stories*
play a very important role in his writing process.
Dahl's notebook has ideas for
his short stories. As soon as he comes
up with an idea he writes it down so
he won't forget. Without his notebook
he would be "quite helpless."

Bill Watterson in "Drawing Calvin and Hobbes" and Roald Dahl in "Lucky Break" discuss their approaches to their work. Write an essay in which you describe the similarities and differences between the work habits of Watterson and Dahl. Explain how their work habits contribute to their success. Use details from both passages to support your answer.

In your essay, be sure to include

- a description of the similarities between the work habits of Watterson and Dahl
- a description of the differences between the work habits of Watterson and Dahl
- an explanation of how their work habits contribute to their success
- details from both passages to support your answer



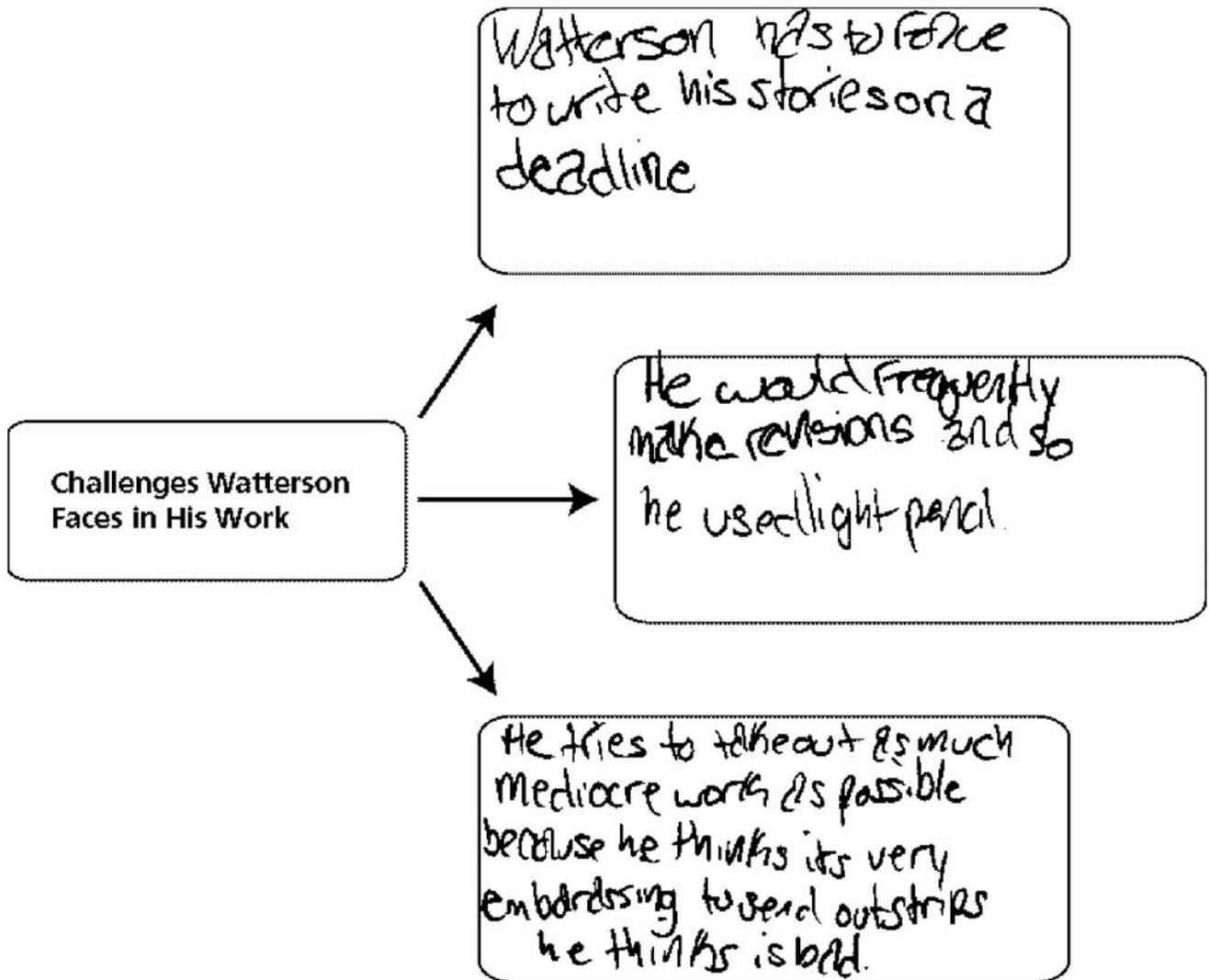
Check your writing for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Bill Watterson and Roald Dahl have many similarities and differences with their work habits. For example Bill Watterson sits outside for an hour, ~~at least~~, everyday and waits for an idea to come up. On the other hand Roald Dahl doesn't sit there and wait he does whatever he has to do and if he comes up with an idea while doing whatever he may be doing, he will find a way to write it down.

Bill Watterson and Roald Dahl have more similarities in their

work habits. They both do their work in a regular notebook. They also both think of ideas and as soon as it hits them they write, whatever it may be, down. Dahl and Wattersons work habit both led them to success. Dahl has come up with some great stories with his work habit such as, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and Fantastic Mr. Fox. Wattersons work habit led him to success too. He now has a cartoon strip called, "Calvin and Hobbes", in the newspaper. Their hardwork payed off, and didn't go to waste.

- 31** Bill Watterson discusses several challenges he faces in his work. In the diagram below, describe three of those challenges.



32

How does the message in this cartoon by Bill Watterson apply to his own method of working? Use details from both the cartoon and the passage to support your answer.



In the excerpt "Drawing Calvin and Hobbes" by Bill Watterson and this cartoon applies his method of working because he creates his ideas by staring into space and letting his mind wander.

33

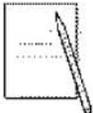
In what way does Roald Dahl's notebook, *Short Stories*, play an important role in his writing process? Use details from "Lucky Break" to support your answer.

In the passage "Lucky Break" by Roald Dahl short stories play an important role in his writing process. All of his little ideas become famous books and some made into movies. His notebook helps him write his stories and create the beginning of a plot. Without his notebook, he would be helpless.

Bill Watterson in "Drawing Calvin and Hobbes" and Roald Dahl in "Lucky Break" discuss their approaches to their work. Write an essay in which you describe the similarities and differences between the work habits of Watterson and Dahl. Explain how their work habits contribute to their success. Use details from both passages to support your answer.

In your essay, be sure to include

- a description of the similarities between the work habits of Watterson and Dahl
- a description of the differences between the work habits of Watterson and Dahl
- an explanation of how their work habits contribute to their success
- details from both passages to support your answer



Check your writing for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

In the excerpt "Drawing Calvin and Hobbes" by Watterson and the passage "Lucky Break" by Dahl have similar work habits. Some similar work habits that they have are they both write down their ideas and write stories. Another similarity is that they are both famous from their stories. Differences that they have is Watterson draws cartoons along with his stories. Dahl writes his ideas in a notebook and uses his notebook to write out stories and plots. Both of their habits contribute to their success because they both work hard and use strategies.

8th GRADE READING/WRITING

PRACTICE SET ANSWER KEY

Name: _____

| | cluster score points | cluster score |
|-------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| PS 1 | (0-5) | |
| PS 2 | (0-5) | |
| PS 3 | (0-5) | |
| PS 4 | (0-5) | |
| PS 5 | (0-5) | |